

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-20 are pending, and claims 10-11 stand rejected. Claims 1-9 and 12-20 are allowed. Applicant has amended claims 10-11 to overcome the rejection.

Rejection of Claims

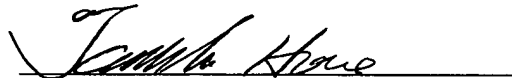
Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to provide a proper antecedent basis and to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Further, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-9 and 12-20.

Conclusion

In view of this response, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks an early allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Tadashi Horie
Registration No. 40,437
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200